

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1-11 (Canceled).

12 (Previously Presented). A mixer system comprising:

a bowl for receiving a material to be mixed, said bowl including a protruding part;
and

a mixer body having a rotatable output component extending downward toward a bowl-receiving yoke shaped to receive said bowl therein, a hinge about which the bowl is pivotable between a loading/unloading position and a closed position relative to said yoke, a downwardly retractable locking pin coupled to said yoke and being shaped to be received in or located adjacent to said protruding part of said bowl when said bowl is in the closed position so as to prevent said bowl from pivoting relative to said yoke; and

a manual locking pin actuator.

13 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 12 wherein said manual locking pin actuator includes a handle extending from a side portion of said yoke.

14 (Previously Presented). A mixer system comprising:

a bowl for receiving a material to be mixed, said bowl including a protruding part;
and

a mixer body having a rotatable output component extending downward toward a bowl-receiving yoke shaped to receive said bowl therein, a hinge about which the bowl is pivotable between a loading/unloading position and a closed position relative to said yoke, a downwardly retractable locking pin coupled to said yoke and being shaped to be received in or located adjacent to said protruding part of said bowl when said bowl is in the closed position so as to prevent said bowl from pivoting relative to said yoke; and

a switch located on said mixer body for detecting when said bowl is in said closed position.

15 (Original). The mixer system of claim 14 further comprising an actuating assembly coupled to said mixer body and movable toward said switch, said bowl including a protrusion that engages said actuating assembly when said bowl is in the closed position to urge said actuating assembly into contact with said switch to cause said switch to be triggered.

16 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 15 wherein said yoke is vertically movable along said mixer body and said switch is at a fixed vertical position, and wherein said actuating assembly includes a switch plate coupled to move with said yoke and extending generally vertically such that said switch plate can engage said switch during the entire range of vertical motion of said yoke relative to said mixer body.

17 (Original). The mixer system of claim 16 wherein said bowl includes an upper edge and wherein said protrusion is located adjacent to said upper edge.

18-24 (Canceled).

25 (Previously Presented). A mixer system comprising: a bowl for receiving a material to be mixed;
a mixer body having a rotatable output component;
a hinge, said bowl pivoting about said hinge relative to said mixer body when said bowl is moved between a loading/unloading position relative to said mixer body and a closed position relative to said mixer body;
a sensor for detecting when said bowl is in said closed position;
an actuating assembly coupled to said mixer body and wherein said sensor includes a switch coupled to said mixer body and said bowl includes a protrusion located on an outer surface thereof, and wherein when said bowl is in said closed position said protrusion engages said actuating assembly and urges said actuating assembly into contact with said switch to cause said switch to be triggered; and
wherein said actuating assembly is vertically movable along said mixer body, said switch is in a fixed vertical position, and wherein said actuating assembly extends generally vertically

such that said actuating assembly can engage said switch for the entire vertical range of motion of said actuating assembly relative to said mixer body.

26 (Canceled).

27 (Previously Presented). A mixer system comprising:

- a bowl for receiving a material to be mixed;
- a mixer body having a rotatable output component;
- a hinge, said bowl pivoting about said hinge relative to said mixer body when said bowl is moved between a loading/unloading position relative to said mixer body and a closed position relative to said mixer body; and
- a sensor for detecting when said bowl is in said closed position; and
- a drive for raising and lowering said bowl relative to said rotatable output component and a control unit receiving an output of said sensor and responsively preventing said bowl from being raised when said bowl is not in said closed position.

28 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 27 further including a motor for driving the rotatable output component, and the control unit responsively prevents said motor from driving said rotatable output component when said bowl is not in said closed position.

29-36 (Canceled).

37 (Previously Presented). A mixer system comprising:

- a bowl for receiving a material to be mixed;
- a mixer body having a rotatable output component;
- a hinge, said bowl pivoting about said hinge relative to said mixer body when said bowl is moved between a loading/unloading position relative to said mixer body and a closed position relative to said mixer body;
- a sensor for detecting when said bowl is in said closed position;

wherein said hinge is formed by a combination of a portion of said bowl and a portion of said mixer body;

wherein said portion of said bowl comprises at least one bracket having at least one opening therein and said portion of said mixer body comprises at least one pin received in said opening of said bracket.

38-42 (Canceled).

43 (Currently Amended). A mixer system comprising:

a bowl for receiving a material to be mixed and including a protruding part;

a mixer body having a rotatable output component, a yoke to receive said bowl, and a locking part;

a hinge supporting said bowl, said bowl pivoting about said hinge relative to said mixer body when said bowl is moved between a loading/unloading position relative to said yoke and a closed position adjacent to said yoke, where said protruding part contacts said locking part to hold said bowl in said closed position;

when said bowl is in said closed position said hinge is located on a side of said bowl that is opposite said protruding part and said locking part;

wherein said hinge independently supports said bowl such that an orientation of an axis of said bowl relative to said mixer body remains substantially unchanged as the bowl is pivoted from the loading/unloading position toward said closed position;

wherein said hinge is formed by engagement between at least a first part fixed to the bowl and at least a second part fixed to the yoke.

44 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 43 wherein said bowl further includes a protrusion extending therefrom and positioned to extend toward said yoke when said bowl is in said closed position for activating a sensor on the mixer body.

45 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 43 wherein said locking part comprises a movable member.

46-47 (Canceled).

48 (Previously Presented). A mixer system comprising:

- a bowl body defining a space for receiving a material to be mixed and having an outer surface with at least one bowl hinge component fixed thereon;

- a mixer body having a rotatable output component and at least one body hinge component fixed thereon;

- wherein the bowl hinge component and the body hinge component engage each other to form a hinge about which said bowl body pivots relative to said mixer body to move between a loading/unloading position relative to said mixer body and a closed position relative to said mixer body;

- wherein said hinge independently supports said bowl body such that an orientation of an axis of said bowl body relative to said mixer body remains substantially unchanged as the bowl body is pivoted from the loading/unloading position toward said closed position;

- wherein the bowl hinge component rests on the body hinge component such that movement of the bowl hinge component vertically upward and away from the body hinge component disengages the two components.

49 (Currently Amended). A mixer system comprising:

- a bowl for receiving a material to be mixed and having at least one associated bowl hinge component that is fixed to the bowl;

- a mixer body having a rotatable output component and at least one body hinge component thereon;

- wherein the bowl hinge component and the body hinge component engage each other to form a hinge about which said bowl pivots relative to said mixer body to move between a loading/unloading position relative to said mixer body and a closed position relative to said mixer body;

wherein said hinge independently supports said bowl such that an orientation of an axis of said bowl relative to said mixer body remains substantially unchanged as the bowl is pivoted from the loading/unloading position toward said closed position; and

wherein the bowl hinge component rests on the body hinge component such that movement of the bowl hinge component vertically upward and away from the body hinge component disengages the two components.

50 (Canceled).

51 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 49 wherein the body hinge component is fixed to the mixer body.

52 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 12 wherein the mixer body includes a sensor for detecting when the bowl is in the closed position, and wherein said hinge independently supports said bowl such that an orientation of an axis of said bowl relative to said mixer body remains substantially unchanged as the bowl is pivoted from the loading/unloading position toward said closed position.

53 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 14 wherein the bowl-receiving yoke is mounted for up and down movement relative to the rotatable output component, a drive is provided to effect movement of the bowl-receiving yoke, and a control circuit is coupled with the switch and the drive, the control circuit prevents the drive from moving the bowl-receiving yoke upward when the switch indicates the bowl is not in the closed position.

54 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 14 wherein the mixer body includes a drive for effecting movement of the rotatable output component, and a control circuit is coupled with the switch and the drive, the control circuit prevents the drive from moving the rotatable output component when the switch indicates the bowl is not in the closed position.

55-56 (Canceled).

57 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 37 wherein said hinge independently supports said bowl such that an orientation of an axis of said bowl relative to said mixer body remains substantially unchanged as the bowl is pivoted from the loading/unloading position toward said closed position, wherein the mixer body includes a drive for effecting movement of the rotatable output component, and a control circuit is coupled with the sensor and the drive, the control circuit prevents the drive from moving the rotatable output component when the sensor indicates the bowl is not in the closed position.

58-59 (Canceled).

60 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 44 wherein the mixer body includes a drive for effecting movement of the rotatable output component, and a control circuit is coupled with the sensor and the drive, the control circuit prevents the drive from moving the rotatable output component when the sensor indicates the bowl is not in the closed position.

61 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 48 wherein the mixer body includes a sensor for detecting when the bowl body is in the closed position.

62 (Previously Presented). The mixer system of claim 49 wherein the mixer body includes a sensor for detecting when the bowl is in the closed position.

63 (Previously Presented). A mixer for receiving a pivotable mixer bowl, comprising:

- a mixer body having a motor for driving a downwardly extending output component;

- a yoke mounted for vertical movement along the mixer body;

- a pin;

- an auxiliary pin, said pin and said auxiliary pin both being mounted onto said yoke, one spaced above the other such that an axis of said pin and an axis of said auxiliary pin are generally aligned and upright to define an upright bowl pivot axis.

64 (Previously Presented). The mixer of claim 63 wherein the mixer body includes a sensor for detecting a bowl closed position.

65 (Previously Presented). A mixer for receiving a pivotable mixer bowl, comprising:
a mixer body having a rotatable output component extending downward toward a bowl-receiving yoke, a hinge component located on said yoke and having an upright axis, a downwardly retractable bowl locking pin coupled to said yoke and spaced from the hinge component; and
a manual bowl locking pin actuator for retracting the bowl locking pin.

66 (Previously Presented). The mixer of claim 65 wherein the mixer body includes a sensor for detecting a bowl closed position.

67 (Previously Presented). A mixer for receiving a pivotable mixer bowl, comprising:
a mixer body having a rotatable output component extending downward toward a bowl-receiving yoke, a hinge component located on said yoke and having an upright axis, a downwardly retractable bowl locking pin coupled to said yoke and spaced from the hinge component; and
a switch located on said mixer body and having a bowl closed position and a bowl open position.

68 (Previously Presented). The mixer of claim 67 further including a switch actuating assembly for contacting said switch.

69 (Previously Presented). The mixer of claim 68 wherein said yoke is movable vertically along said mixer body and said switch actuating assembly moves with said yoke.

70 (Previously Presented). A mixer for receiving a pivotable mixer bowl, comprising:
a mixer body having a downwardly extending rotatable output component;

a hinge component on a movable yoke of said mixer body, the hinge component at least in part defining an upright bowl pivot axis;

a sensor for detecting a bowl closed condition;

a drive for raising and lowering said yoke relative to said rotatable output component;

and

a control unit operatively connected with said sensor and responsively preventing said yoke from being raised by said drive in the absence of detection of said bowl closed condition.

71 (Previously Presented). The mixer of claim 70 wherein said hinge component comprises at least one upwardly extending pin fixed to said yoke.

72 (Previously Presented). The mixer of claim 70 further including a bowl locking mechanism on said yoke.

73 (Previously Presented). A mixer for receiving a pivotable mixer bowl, system comprising:
a mixer body having a downwardly extending rotatable output component;
a hinge component on said mixer body and at least in part defining an upright bowl pivot axis; and

a control unit, including an associated sensor for detecting a bowl closed condition and a bowl open condition, the control unit responsive to disable a mixer function upon detection of the bowl open condition, the control unit responsive to enable the mixer function upon detection of the bowl closed condition.

74 (Previously Presented). The mixer of claim 73 wherein said hinge component comprises at least one upwardly extending pin fixed to said yoke.

75 (Previously Presented). The mixer of claim 73 further including a bowl locking mechanism on said yoke.